This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method, comprising:

(a) user selecting a ~~number~~ plurality of events for each of which an outcome is determined at least partly by chance and is as yet not known to the user; ~~and~~

(b) prior to actually determining outcomes of the events, simulating the outcomes of the plurality of events based on a probability that a predetermined outcome will occur and automatically indicating to the user a predicted ~~result~~ (i) first result of simulating the outcome of a first one of the events, (ii) a second result of simulating the outcome of a second event accumulated with the first result and, (iii) for each of the plurality of events from a third (i=3) event to an nth (i=n) event, an ith result of simulating the outcome of an ith event accumulated with the (i-1)th result, wherein the (i-1)th result simulates the outcome of an (i-1)th event accumulated with an (i-2)th result;

~~based on a probability that a predetermined outcome will occur among the user-selected number of events.~~

(c) user selecting a predicted result from among the predicted first through nth results;

(d) crediting an account for the user with a first amount according to the user-selected result;

_____ (e) permitting the user to utilize the first amount for actually determining outcomes of at least some of the events; and

_____ (f) after the outcomes of a minimum number of the events have been actually determined, permitting the user to utilize a second amount remaining from the first amount in the account for a purpose other than for actually determining the outcomes of the events.

2. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plurality of events are ordered sequentially in time.

3. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising collecting a payment from the user prior to the step of automatically indicating the predicted ~~result~~ results to the user.

4-5. (cancelled)

6. (currently amended) A method, comprising:

_____ (a) user selecting a plurality of events for each of which an outcome is determined at least partly by chance and is as yet not actually known to the user;

_____ (b) prior to actually determining the outcomes of the events, simulating the outcomes of the plurality of events based on a probability that a predetermined outcome will occur and automatically indicating to the user a predicted (i) first result of simulating the outcome of a first one of the events, (ii) a second result of simulating the outcome of a second event accumulated with the first result and, (iii) for each of the plurality of events from a third (i=3) event to an nth (i=n) event, an ith result of simulating the outcome of an

ith event accumulated with the (i-1)th result, wherein the (i-1)th result simulates the outcome of an (i-1)th event accumulated with an (i-2)th result;

(c) user selecting a predicted result from among the predicted first through nth results;

(d) crediting an account for the user with a first amount according to the user-selected result; and

~~The method as claimed in claim 5, further comprising~~

(e) while decreasing a probability that the predetermined outcome will occur per each individual event until the outcomes of at least ~~the~~ a minimum number of the events have been actually determined~~occurred~~, permitting the user to utilize the first amount for actually determining the outcomes of at least some of the events.

7. (original) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the time sequentially ordered events occur in the user playing of one or more games of chance.

8. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~5~~ 1, further comprising providing the account to the user by an operator of the one or more games of chance, and permitting the user to withdraw the second amount from the account after the minimum number of events have occurred.

9. (original) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the one or more games of chance are provided by an operator of a casino and the user is a player with respect to the casino.

10. (original) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the one or more games of chance are played on a slot machine of the casino.

11. (original) The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the number of the plurality of events is selected by the user and the amount of the payment collected from the user varies according to the selected number of events.

12.(currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the predicted ~~result~~ first through nth results are ~~is~~ indicated graphically to the user.

13-14. (cancelled)

15. (currently amended) The system as claimed in claim ~~14,~~ 21, wherein the system is further operable, upon crediting the account, to decrease a probability that the predetermined outcome will occur per each individual event until at least the actual outcomes of the minimum number of events have been determined ~~occurred~~.

16. (currently amended) The system as claimed in claim ~~15~~ 21, wherein the system is further operable to provide the account to the user from an operator of one or more games of chance, and permit the user to withdraw the second amount from the account after the actual outcomes of the minimum number of events have ~~occurred~~ been determined.

17. (currently amended) ~~A slot machine including the~~ The system as claimed in claim 16 wherein the device includes a slot machine.

18-19. (cancelled)

20. (currently amended) The recording medium as claimed in claim ~~19~~ 23, wherein said method further comprises decreasing a probability of the occurrence of the predetermined outcome per each individual event until the actual outcomes of at least the minimum number of events have been determined ~~occurred~~.

21. (new) A system, comprising:

a device operable to execute computer-readable instructions; and

a program including a set of computer-readable instructions, the instructions being executable by the device to perform a method including the steps of:

(a) user selecting a plurality of events for each of which an outcome is determined at least partly by chance and is as yet not known to the user;

(b) prior to actually determining outcomes of the events, simulating the outcomes of the plurality of events based on a probability that a predetermined outcome will occur and automatically indicating to the user a predicted (i) first result of simulating the outcome of a first one of the events, (ii) a second result of simulating the outcome of a second event accumulated with the first result and, (iii) for each of the plurality of events from a third (i=3) event to an nth (i=n) event, an ith result of simulating the outcome of an ith event accumulated with the (i-1)th result, wherein the (i-1)th result simulates the outcome of an (i-1)th event accumulated with an (i-2)th result;

(c) user selecting a predicted result from among the predicted first through nth results;

(d) crediting an account for the user with a first amount according to the user-selected result;

(e) permitting the user to utilize the first amount for actually determining outcomes of at least some of the events; and

(f) after the outcomes of a minimum number of the events have been actually determined, permitting the user to utilize a second amount remaining from the first amount in the account for a purpose other than for actually determining the outcomes of the events.

22. (new) The system as claimed in claim 21, wherein the device includes a computing device, a server or a slot machine.

23. (new) A recording medium having computer-readable instructions recorded thereon, the instructions being executable by a device to perform a method including the steps of::

(a) user selecting a plurality of events for each of which an outcome is determined at least partly by chance and is as yet not known to the user;

(b) prior to actually determining outcomes of the events, simulating the outcomes of the plurality of events based on a probability that a predetermined outcome will occur and automatically indicating to the user a predicted (i) first result of simulating the outcome of a first one of the events, (ii) a second result of simulating the outcome of a second event accumulated with the first result and, (iii) for each of the plurality of events from a third (i=3) event to an nth (i=n) event, an ith result of simulating the outcome of an ith event accumulated with the (i-1)th result, wherein the (i-1)th result simulates the outcome of an (i-1)th event accumulated with an (i-2)th result;

(c) user selecting a predicted result from among the predicted first through nth results;

(d) crediting an account for the user with a first amount according to the user-selected result;

(e) permitting the user to utilize the first amount for actually determining outcomes of at least some of the events; and

(f) after the outcomes of a minimum number of the events have been actually determined, permitting the user to utilize a second amount remaining from the first amount in the account for a purpose other than for actually determining the outcomes of the events.